

In re Appln. of CHAWLA et al.
Application No. 10/008,489

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

The July 1, 2003, Office Action consists of a three-way restriction requirement, as follows: Group I (a curable composition, claims 1-19, 32-37, 45 and 48); Group II (a composition with a reflective layer, claims 20-31, 44 46 and 47); and Group III (a composite with a cured layer, claims 38-43 and 49).

The Action advises that the inventions of Group I and II, and I and III, are distinct from one another because they represent mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. The inventions of Groups II and III are said to be unrelated to one another. Because the inventions are distinct, and have acquired a separate status in the art (as shown by their different classifications); the Action concludes that restriction is proper.

Response

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. Although the inventions of Groups I-III may be patentably distinct, applicants submit that a single search would provide all prior art relevant to each group due to the overlapping nature of the subject matter claimed therein. For example, in conducting a search for the optical media of Group II, one would also necessarily search for the optical media of Group III because both (by virtue of the amendment of claim 38) include a reflective or semi-reflective layer. Moreover, a search for the optical media of Group II would also include a search for the adhesive of Group I because the latter is included in the former, albeit in an uncured form. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement on these bases is respectfully solicited.

If the restriction requirement is made final, however, applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I (1-19, 32-37, 45 and 48) for prosecution at this time.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment or ROA - Regular (Revised 7/29/03)

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